

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed June 24, 2009 has been received and reviewed. No new matter is introduced. Claims 1-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,150,755 to LeVaughn et al. Applicant respectfully traverses and requests reconsideration.

On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner applies reference number (156) of the LeVaughn reference as “a plurality of drive springs”. However, Figure 18 of the LeVaughn reference actually shows a sequence of operation of a single mechanism with only one drive spring (156). The five springs shown in Figure 18 are one and the same spring, just shown at different stages in the sequence of operation. Thus, reference number (156) of the LeVaughn reference is not properly considered “a plurality of drive springs”.

By contrast, Applicant’s Claim 1 specifies “a plurality of lancets, wherein each lancet has a separate drive spring independently associated therewith....” Claim 12 recites “a lancet retainer independently associated with each said at least one lancet....” And Claim 21 recites “a plurality of drive springs, each spring interfacing at a first end with the housing and interfacing at a second end with one of the lancets....” As noted above, element number 156 of the LeVaughn reference is a single drive spring, not a “plurality of drive springs.” Accordingly, the presently claimed invention is not disclosed or suggested by the art of record.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above comments, it is believed that all grounds of rejection are overcome and that the application has now been placed in full condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant earnestly solicits early and favorable action. Should there be any further questions or reservations, the Examiner is urged to telephone Applicant's undersigned attorney at (770) 984-2300.

Respectfully submitted,



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